

Message Text

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41

ACTION HEW-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CU-02 ABF-01 FS-01 OES-03 /018 W

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R 131655Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8155

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0269

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, DM

SUBJ: DHEW/OE/DIE FULBRIGHT-HAYS PROGRAMS: GROUP PROJECTS
ABROAD

REF STATE A-307,

1. POST HAS REVIEWED PROJECT PROPOSALS 440AH60029 AND
440AH60037, ENCLOSURES TO REPAIR, AND HAS FOLLOWING COMMENTS
FOR OFFICE OF EDUCATION AND BOARD OF FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIPS:

A. PAO IS NOW FREDERICK LA SOR, SHERMAN ROSS HAVING BEEN
REASSIGNED ABIDJAN. LA SOR READY TO OFFER RESOURCES HIS OFFICE
AS APPROPRIATE AND USEFUL TO GROUP.

B. VERY MINIMUM MAINTENANCE HOTEL DE LA PLAGES, COTONOU, SHOULD
BE FIGURED AT DOLS 33 SINGLE OCCUPANCY, DOLS 28 EACH, DOUBLE
OCCUPANCY. BOTH PROPOSALS SERIOUSLY UNDERESTIMATED THIS
FIGURE.

C. NEITHER PROPOSAL INCLUDES MUSEUMS OF PORT NOVO AND OUIDAH.
BOTH MUSEUMS ARE ON ROAD TOURS PROPOSE TO FOLLOW, AND BOTH
ETHNOLOGICALLY BETTER THAN MUSEUM IN ABOMEY. IF TOURS COME TO
PRB, WE RECOMMEND THESE TWO MUSEUMS BE INCLUDED.

D. THE LAND BORDER BETWEEN TOGO AND PRB HAS BEEN CLOSED
SINCE OCT 18, WITH EXCEPTION SHORT PERIOD IN JAN. WE CAN
GET NO ASSURANCE IT WILL BE OPEN IN JULY AND AUG, WHEN TOURS
PROPOSE TO VISIT, SO BOTH TOURS SHOULD CONSIDER CONTINGENCY
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AIR TRANSPORT BETWEEN TWO CAPITALS.

E. PRB GOVT HAS BEEN WORKING HARD DURING PAST YEAR AT POLITICIZING MASSES, BOTH IN AND OUT OF MAJOR CITIES, AND RECENT EXAMPLES OF PETTY HARASSMENT OF TOURIST HAVE COME TO LIGHT.

F. PHOTOGRAPHY IS NOW RESTRICTED. WITH REGULATIONS BEING VAGUE ENOUGH AND REVOLUTIONARY FERVOR OCCASIONALLY HIGH ENOUGH THAT SOME TOURISTS HAVE HAD TROUBLE. WE KNOW IT IS FORMALLY PROHIBITED AT MUSEUMS. AS WE CANNOT GET DEFINITIVE STATEMENT FROM MININFO ABOUT NEW REGULATIONS WE CANNOT SATISFACTORILY COUNSEL TOURISTS RE ADVISABILITY TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS.

2. POLITICAL SITUATION FURTHER CLOUDED BY UNCERTAINTY PRESENT BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND EMBASSY HESITATES AT THIS POINT TO ADVISE FOR OR AGAINST INCLUSION PRB IN PROJECTS' ITINERARIES. CU/AF AND TOUR COORDINATORS SHOULD KEEP ABREAST SITUATION HERE, BE PREPARED TO OVERFLY PRB IF SITUATION FURTHER DETERIORATES. ENGLE

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